

CLAIMS:

1. A disk cartridge and storage assembly, comprising:
 a disk having two sides, at least one of the sides being adapted to contain
readable data thereon;
 a housing in which the disk is rotatably accommodated and which has an
5 opening to provide access to the disk, the housing being adapted to be inserted into a disk
drive together with the disk;
 wherein the cartridge comprises at least a first coupling member on the
housing, and the assembly is provided with a link element to couple the cartridge to a storage
support, said link element comprising a second coupling member adapted to be removably
10 coupled to the first coupling member.
2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first coupling member on the cartridge is
at least one hole made in a part of the housing outside the circumference of the disk.
- 15 3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the hole is a through-hole.
4. The assembly of claim 2 or 3, wherein the shape of the housing is such that at
least one protruding area thereof projects beyond the circumference of the disk, the first
coupling member being positioned in the protruding area.
- 20 5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein said protruding area has a smaller thickness
than the remainder of the housing.
6. The assembly of one of the preceding claims, wherein the second coupling
25 member of the link element comprises a clamping mechanism.
7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the clamping mechanism of the link element
comprises two resilient legs having, at the sides facing each other, oppositely directed
protrusions that fit into the hole of the first coupling member from two sides of the housing,

the legs being spaced from each other at the position of the protrusions by a distance substantially corresponding to or smaller than the thickness of the housing at the position of the first coupling member.

5 8. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the clamping mechanism of the link element comprises two legs having a protrusion on one leg that fits through the through hole of the first coupling member on the cartridge housing and an opening on the other leg that fits around the protrusion on the other leg.

10 9. The assembly of one of the preceding claims, wherein an end of the link element remote from the second coupling member is adapted to be connected to a support member of the storage support.

10. The assembly of claim 9, wherein the support member is a key fob.

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11. The assembly of claim 9, wherein the support member is an element provided in a storage container to connect at least one cartridge to the container in a pivotable manner by means of the link element.

20 12. The assembly of claim 9, wherein the support member is an element provided at the circumference of a column, and wherein a plurality of support members is provided spaced around the circumference of the column in order to suspend a plurality of cartridges pivotally around the column by means of the link elements so as to form a Rolodex® type of storage facility.

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13. The assembly of claim 9, 11 or 12, wherein the link element comprises two pairs of legs, each leg having a second coupling member adapted to be coupled to a respective first coupling member on the housing of the cartridge, said two pairs of legs being interconnected by a bridge member.

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14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the bridge member is provided with rotary members rotatably engaging in recesses that act as the support member for the cartridge.

15. A storage system for storing a plurality of disk cartridges, comprising a body, a plurality of support members distributed along the body, and a plurality of link elements pivotally connected to a corresponding support member, each link element having a second coupling member which is adapted to be removably coupled to a mating first coupling member of a cartridge.

16. The storage system of claim 15, wherein the body is a container in which the support members are provided in a series near a bottom of the container.

17. The storage system of claim 15, wherein the body is a column, the support members being distributed around the circumference of the column.

18. The storage system of claim 16 or 17, wherein the support members are arranged to suspend the cartridges in a parallel manner, the spacing of two adjacent support members being such that cartridges that are pivotally connected to the support members by means of the link elements are pivotable through a limited angle to enable a user to leaf through the series of cartridges.

19. Link element for connecting a housing of a disk cartridge to a support member, the link element comprising a second coupling member adapted to be removably coupled to a mating first coupling member on the housing of the disk cartridge.

20. The link element of claim 19, wherein the second coupling member is a clamping mechanism.

21. The link element of claim 20, intended to be coupled to a cartridge housing having a first coupling member constructed as a hole, wherein the clamping mechanism of the second coupling member comprises two resilient legs having, at the sides facing each other, oppositely directed protrusions that fit into the hole of the first coupling member from two sides of the housing, the legs being spaced from each other at the position of the protrusions by a distance substantially corresponding to the thickness of the housing at the position of the first coupling member.

22. The link element of claim 20, intended to be coupled to a cartridge housing having a first coupling member constructed as a hole, wherein the clamping mechanism comprises two legs having a protrusion on one leg that fits through the through hole of the first coupling member on the housing and an opening on the other leg that fits around the protrusion on the other leg.

23. The link element of one of claims 19 to 22, wherein the end of the link element remote from the second coupling member is adapted to be connected to a support member.

24. The link element of one of claims 19 to 23, comprising at least two second coupling members each adapted to be coupled to a respective first coupling member on the housing of the cartridge, said two coupling members being interconnected by a bridge member.

25. The link element of claim 24, wherein the bridge member comprises rotary members rotatably engaging in recesses acting as a support member for the cartridge.

26. The link element of one of claims 19 to 25, which is made from sheet metal, preferably spring steel.

27. The link element of claim 26, wherein the second coupling members are formed by protrusions, in particular stamped portions, adapted to engage in holes forming the first coupling members in the cartridge housing.

28. A disk cartridge, comprising:
a disk having two sides, at least one of the sides containing readable data thereon;
a housing in which the disk is rotatably accommodated and which has an opening to provide access to the disk, the housing being adapted to be inserted into a disk drive together with the disk;
wherein the cartridge comprises at least a first coupling member on the housing, adapted to be removably coupled to a second coupling member.

29. The disk cartridge of claim 28, wherein the shape of the housing is such that at least a corner area thereof projects beyond the circumference of the disk, and the first coupling member is at least one hole made in said corner area, preferably having a smaller thickness than the remainder of the housing.

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30. Method of manufacturing a plurality of link elements comprising two pairs of legs which each comprise a second coupling member, and a bridge member between the pairs of legs, wherein the link elements are cut from flat metal sheeting, rows of link elements being cut out such that the link elements in adjacent rows are staggered and legs from link elements in one row are positioned between legs of link elements in an adjacent row.

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31. The method of claim 30, wherein the link elements are folded from their flat position along a centerline through the bridge member, such that the legs in one pair are spaced from each other, and the second coupling members of the legs in one pair are mutually opposed.

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32. The method of claim 31, wherein the second coupling members are each formed as an indentation which is pressed into the metal sheet before the link element is folded.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein the indentations are provided with a hemispherical shape.